



January 22, 2016

Comments on Secretary of State
Preliminary Draft Proposed Rules – Dated December 15, 2015
Submitted by El Paso County, Colorado

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on the Preliminary Draft Proposed Rules.

El Paso County offers rewording to Rule 6.1.4 – The County Clerk must provide a list of election judges, including political party affiliations and initial assignments, if known, to each appointing party no later than 35 days prior to the election. If requested by the party, the County Clerk shall provide an updated list of election judge assignments no later than seven days before the date on which the county will open its first voter service and polling center.

Explanation of rewording – At 45 days prior to the election we will not have a stable list of election workers yet assigned. Consequently a list provided at 45 days will not be as meaningful to the parties as a list that is provided closer to the election. At least by 35 days prior to the election, many of our election judges will have agreed to their assignment and will have begun their training.

Rewording to Rule 6.2.1 – If a major political party objects to the initial signature verification election judge assignments included in the list required by Rule 6.1.4, the political party may contact the County Clerk to recommend replacement judge(s) no later than 30 days prior to the election. The county clerk may appoint replacements judges as appropriate as long as the replacement judge can successfully complete the required training course and is willing to serve.

Explanation of rewording – Although some signature verification training may have begun at the 30 day mark, this timeline offers what we think is a practical compromise to still seek the political party's input on the process if they choose to have that level of involvement.

Rewording to Rule 6.4 – If the race for County Clerk & Recorder is on the ballot and the race is contested, a county may not use regular staff as signature verification judges.

Explanation of rewording – We have concerns in a very busy election cycle that if we are not permitted to have our trained, experienced staff conduct signature verification during unusually busy times, that we may find ourselves in a situation where we can't keep up with the volume of ballots coming which will cause unnecessary delays.

We propose striking proposed Rules 6.4.1 and 6.4.2.